

Notice of Exemption

To:

Office of Planning and Research
For U.S. Mail:
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

Street Address:

1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From:

Department of Fish and Wildlife
1701 Nimbus Road
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670



Project Title: Hope Valley Restoration and Aquatic Enhancement (Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement No. 1600-2020-0082-R2)

Project Location: The project is located at two sites at the West Fork Carson River, in the County of Alpine, State of California; Section 25, Township 11N, Range 18E, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) map Freel Peak, Mt. Diablo base and meridian. Project Site 1 is located at the first meander (about 300 feet) downstream of the Highway 88 bridge at Latitude 38.771890, Longitude -119.934319. Project Site 2 is located about one half mile downstream of Project Site 1 and approximately one mile upstream of Luther Pass Road in Hope Valley, at Latitude 38.776757, Longitude -119.933337.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has extended Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement number 1600-2020-0082-R2, pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to the project Applicant, Alpine Watershed Group, as represented by Nicole Monique Loden.

The project is limited to the following restoration activities:

Project Site 1: Restoration techniques will mimic an abandoned oxbow feature by excavating an approximately 2.5ft deep by 14ft wide trench behind a failing riverbank and filling it with live sod blocks, willow stakes, and live shrub transplants. The trench construction will avoid disturbance of mature vegetation and will maintain a minimum 3 to 4ft setback from the top of the riverbank. Approximately 500 cubic yards of soil will be excavated and hauled off-site. Meadow sod blocks will be salvaged prior to excavation and reinstalled over the side slopes and bottom of the excavated floodplain bench during the revegetation phase. A temporary irrigation system will be installed to minimize plant stress and erosion by means of slow water delivery with low impact nozzles. The irrigation system will remain in place until November 15. The work at Project Site 1 will temporarily impact approximately 0.14 acre of palustrine wet meadow and 0.01 acre of riverine habitat.

Project Site 2: The restoration work's primary focus at Project Site 2 is to update previous restoration work by providing additional stability to divert stream energy from scouring behind the current log crib structure. This will be accomplished by installing slash to the ends of the reach. Slash will consist of locally-sourced conifer and willow cuttings and will be weaved in between vertically-placed 8in x 10ft slash anchor logs. The slash anchor logs will be embedded 7ft into the ground using an auger to drill 8in holes for placement. Live willow stakes, installed down to or near groundwater, will also be placed vertically within the end of reach project areas. Live stakes will be installed along the reach at an average spacing of 5ft. The ends of the reach will be regraded slightly to maintain stable bank conditions and facilitate placement of slash anchor logs. Approximately 9 cubic yards of soil will be excavated during the bank regrading. Excavated soil will be dispersed in adjacent upland areas. Soil dispersal will not exceed a depth of 6in. Soils will be hand raked to further disperse material. The work at Project Site 2 will temporarily impact approximately 0.01 acre of riverine habitat.

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Equipment used for project activities will include a water buffalo (mobile water tank on a trailer that has a pump that allows the contractor to keep dust down), utility truck, excavator, skidsteer, and excavator-mounted auger.

No work will be conducted in the wetted portion of the channel and no dewatering is proposed.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying out Project: Alpine Watershed Group

Exempt Status:

- Statutory Exemption.
- Categorical Exemption. Type – Class 4(d); California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15304

Reasons why project is exempt: The project is exempt under Class 4(d) because it consists of minor alterations in the condition of land, water, and vegetation in an existing officially-designated wildlife area (Hope Valley Wildlife Area) which will result in improvement of habitat for fish and wildlife resources. No trees will be removed.

CDFW Contact Person: Gabriele Quillman, Environmental Scientist, (916) 358-2955

DocuSigned by:
Colin Purdy
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Signature: _____ **Date:** 6/23/2020
Colin Purdy, Acting Environmental Program Manager